REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated November 17, 2004, Applicant's undersigned representative respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicant's undersigned representative respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 through 20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,266,692 (Greenstein). Claims 8 through 12, 15, and 18 through 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,999,932 (Paul). Claims 2, 3, 13, 14, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Greenstein in view of U.S. Patent Application 2002/0120702 (Schiavone). Claims 4 through 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Greenstein in view of Paul.

Applicant's undersigned representative previously submitted a Preliminary Amendment on November 4, 2004. It appears the Preliminary Amendment did not reach Examiner Nguyen prior to issuance of the November 17, 2004 Office Action. In view of the November 17 Office Action and the present response, Applicant's undersigned representative requests that the Preliminary Amendment of November 4, 2004 not be considered but be superceded by the present response.

Interview Summary

On January 27, 2005, Applicant's undersigned representative conducted a telephonic interview with Examiner Nguyen. During that interview, the Greenstein and Schiavone references were discussed. Examiner Nguyen agreed to consider arguments for patentability upon submission of a written response.

Applicant's undersigned representative wishes to thank Examiner Nguyen for conducting the telephonic interview and for his continued consideration of the present application.

November 4, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement

On November 4, 2004, an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was submitted in connection with this application. An initialed copy of the IDS has not been received. Submitted herewith is a copy of the November 4, 2004 IDS. An initialed copy is respectfully requested.

Rejections

Claim 1 is directed to a method of sorting e-mail, comprising:

> receiving an e-mail from an e-mail source;
> identifying whether the e-mail has a vendor registration code for identifying a vendor from whom the e-mail was forwarded;
> **identifying whether the e-mail has a vendor registration purpose code for identifying the purpose of the e-mail**; and
> if the e-mail has a vendor registration code that was previously assigned to the e-mail source **and the e-mail has a vendor registration purpose code that was previously assigned to the e-mail source**, presenting the e-mail with other e-mails having vendor registration codes.

In order for a reference to anticipate this claim, the reference must teach all of the claimed features, including those emphasized. Independent claims 8, 16, 18 and 21 comprise similar features. Applicant's undersigned representative respectfully submits that none of the cited references teach or suggest the claimed features.

Greenstein is directed to blocking electronic mail. In the system disclosed by Greenstein, when an e-mail is received at a mail server, a field in a header of the e-mail is checked for a valid passcode. If a valid passcode is detected, the e-mail is sent to a receiver at the e-mail address. (Abstract).

Paul is directed to a system for eliminating unwanted electronic e-mail. In the system disclosed by Paul, an inclusion list is established for an e-mail user. Data from incoming e-mails is compared to the user's inclusion list. If the comparison is acceptable, the e-mail may be received by the user. (Abstract).

Schiavone is directed to a method for dynamic prioritization of e-mail. According to one embodiment, e-mails may be categorized for display. Schiavone teaches that a message

identifier is read from header information received in an e-mail. (¶ 50). The message

identifier is compared with a set of predetermined categories associated with the e-mail

recipient's in-box. (¶ 53, 55, Fig. 6). If the message identifier corresponds to one of the

categories associated with the recipient's in-box, the e-mail is presented with e-mails in that

category.(¶ 55, 56).

In contradistinction to the claimed features, however, neither Greenstein, Paul, nor

Schiavone teach:

receiving an e-mail from an e-mail source;

. . . and
if the e-mail has a vendor registration code that was
previously assigned to the e-mail source and the e-mail has
a vendor registration code that was previously assigned to
the e-mail source, presenting the e-mail with other e-mails
having vendor registration codes

Indeed, neither Greenstein, Paul, nor Schiavone teach or even suggest a vendor registration

purpose code that is assigned to an e-mail source. Greenstein teaches use of a passcode but

does not even mention that the purpose of the e-mail could be a consideration for filtering e-

mails, and certainly does not teach assigning a vendor registration purpose code. Paul doe

not teach assigning codes at all, and certainly does not teach assigning a vendor registration

purpose code. Schiavone mentions sorting e-mails by category information, but the sorting is

accomplished by attempting to glean textual information from the e-mail and comparing it to

a set of predetermined categories *associated with the user's in-box*. (¶ 53, 55, Fig. 6). In

contradistinction to the claimed features, Schiavone simply does not teach or even suggest

assigning a vendor registration purpose code to e-mail sources. As a result, the system

disclosed by Schiavone is not capable of discerning whether an e-mail with a particular

content has been authorized to be received from a particular e-mail source. Indeed,

Schiavone's teaching of sorting based upon categories associated with a user's *in-box* teaches

away from a system wherein vendor registration purpose codes are assigned to *e-mail*

sources.

Therefore, because they do not teach a feature of the claimed combination, neither

Greenstein, Paul, nor Schiavone alone or in combination anticipate or render obvious
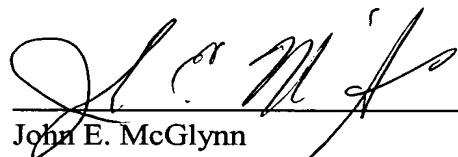
independent claims 1, 8, 16, 18, and 21. Claims 2-7, 9-15, 17, 19-20, and 22-24 which depend from the independent claims are patentable for the same reasons. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the prior art rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants' undersigned representative requests reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

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